

In the paragraph beginning on line 25, on Page 1:

Application EP 1 066 767, ~~the content of which is incorporated by reference,~~ discloses a boot having a rigid shell comprising a sole and on which a rigid collar is articulated. The shell has a notch on the top of the foot as far as the top of the instep. Semirigid elements are fixed on either side of this notch and overlap on the top of the foot to guarantee watertightness. These elements are produced, for example, from leather or from a synthetic material. This boot is closed and tightened using lever, tie, and buckle devices that interact with hooks. Such devices, when fixed on flexible elements, create zones of compression over users' feet.

In the paragraph beginning on line 5, on Page 2:

To remedy this problem, it is possible to use a lace, as in application WO 96/03186, ~~the content of which is incorporated by reference.~~ The snowboot described in that document has a hard shell produced in a single piece that surrounds the lower leg and heel of the rider, but has an opening on the top of the foot and soft parts covering this opening. The soft parts comprise eyelets in which a lace slides and, when tensioned, makes it possible to close and tighten the boot by the soft parts being brought closer together.

Clean copies of the above amended paragraphs are attached hereto.

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